



Vashon Seals Swim Team
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DRUG & ALCOHOL POLICY

(As adopted by the Vashon Aquatic Club Board of Directors on October 1, 2009)

The Vashon Seals Swim Team recognizes that the illegal use of drugs and alcohol threatens the development of human potential and talent. The Seals Swim Team shall take a proactive approach concerning this issue with the swimmers in our program. It is the Team's position that drugs, alcohol and tobacco products have no place in athletics. The use of alcohol or tobacco at a young age or the use of illegal drugs at any age is inconsistent with the Team's vision.

Peer pressure is a strong force. It is our hope that our swimmers understand the negative effects of drugs, alcohol, and applicable Washington law and Team's position concerning this issue.

Washington Law

1. It is unlawful to furnish or sell alcoholic beverages to, or buy alcoholic beverages for a person under 21 years of age; for a person to act as an agent to purchase or acquire, any alcoholic beverage for a person under 21 years of age; and for a person under 21 years of age to misrepresent his identity or to use any false identification for the purpose of purchasing or obtaining alcoholic beverage.
2. It is unlawful to purchase cigarettes or tobacco related products under the age of 18.
3. It is unlawful to drive a car while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Drugs, Alcohol and Public Behavior

1. Should the Seals coaching staff discover that individual swimmers are using drugs or alcohol, the coach and representatives of the Board of Directors may counsel with the swimmer and parents as appropriate. The Team's staff can recommend professionals who can counsel your swimmer.
2. Disciplinary penalties for drug, tobacco products or alcohol related activities are covered below. These pertain to the Team's training facilities and at all Seals sponsored functions.
3. If Seals swimmers individually or in a group engage in an activity – whether drugs or alcohol are involved or not on or off-site – that brings discredit to themselves and/or to Vashon Seals Swim Team, the club shall exercise jurisdiction, and may apply severe individual penalties up to and including separation.

Offenses and Penalties

1. Possession or use of any of the following may require separation from the swim team: illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia; intoxicants, depending on gravity, or illegal performance enhancement substances.
2. Athletes who give, sell, possess, use or are under the influence of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or drugs at Seals training facilities or while attending a team function may incur suspension, be placed on probation, or be dismissed.

In the event that a swimmer is charged with a violation of law involving drugs or alcohol, the Team would like to help that swimmer overcome this problem, however;

1. The athlete may be immediately suspended from the club pending the outcome of the trial or the resolution of the matter.
2. At the conclusion of the trial or upon resolution of the matter, the situation will be reviewed by the Board of Directors and the Head Coach.
3. Any conviction or plea bargain may be cause for permanent dismissal from the club.

Vashon Seals Swim Team Drug Education

By bringing in outside experts, the Seals Swim Team wishes to achieve the following:

1. Promote, through drug education, an awareness of drug substance use and abuse.
2. Develop, among athletes, coaches and staff, an acute awareness of substance use/abuse problems.